



McDowell Road/South Scottsdale Task Force
ASU SkySong, Convergence Conference Room #129
1475 N. Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85257
December 10, 2009

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Tom Sadvary, Chair
Virginia Korte
Eric Larson
Wendy Lyons
Tom Mason
George Adams
Jay Petkunas
Sonnie Kirtley
Ed Gawf
Kurt Brueckner
Don Couvillion
Michael Fernandez
Jeremiah Foster

Absent: Jim Atkinson
Paul Messinger

Staff: Rob Millar

Call to Order

Chair Sadvary called the McDowell Road/South Scottsdale Task Force regular meeting to order at 8:06 am. Roll call confirmed the presence of Task Force members as noted.

1. Approval of 11-19-09 Summarized Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Jeremiah Foster. Motion seconded by Virginia Korte. Minutes approved 13-0.

APPROVED

2. Discovery Triangle

Sarah Dial presented an overview of the Discovery Triangle Development Corporation. The organization aims to regionally promote the area bounded by Arizona State University in Tempe, Downtown Phoenix, and SkySong in Scottsdale. The organization's first year initiatives include promoting a general vision for the area, regional marketing of the area, and providing policy guidance.

The organization has also worked with CB Richard Ellis to catalogue all non-residential parcels in a Google Maps program, creating an asset inventory complete with property information that includes owners, property details, and tenants. Ms. Dial also presented a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of the Discovery Triangle area.

In response to questions from the Task Force, Councilman Ecton stated that the City currently has no formal relationship with the organization; he attends the meetings as a citizen of the City of Scottsdale but has no authority or official capacity.

3. ASU Biodesign Institute

Scheduled speaker Dr. Alan Nelson was unable to attend. Therefore, this item was not addressed.

4. ASU SkySong

Julia Rosen, Associate Vice President of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for SkySong, provided an overview of SkySong. She noted that currently there are 45 companies at SkySong with over 400 employees and an anticipated total of 2,000 employees at build-out. Ms. Rosen also noted SkySong's economic impact to the area and listed many of the events and activities that have occurred at the site.

In response to questions from the Task Force, Ms. Rosen and Don Couvillion, Vice President of Real Estate at the ASU Foundation, discussed future plans for land uses on site. Also in response to questions, they mentioned improvements that they would like to see in order to improve the conditions at SkySong, including general "quality of life" amenities such as parks nearby and increased connectivity to other communities—especially to Tempe.

5. Task Force Recommendations to City Council

The Mayor's Chief of Staff, Tim La Sota, addressed the Task Force, expressing the Mayor's appreciation of the efforts of the Task Force members.

Chairman Sadvary reviewed the draft list of council report items from the Task Force, asking for any input on changes members would like to see to the document before it is finalized. Additional items to be added include discussion of transportation and regional connectivity, projected needs for demand, cost/benefit analyses of potential courses of action, and any potential partnerships going forward.

6. Staff and Task Forces Updates (A.R.S. 38-431.02 (K))

Rob Millar noted that the Task Force received approval for an extension and he listed upcoming meeting dates, noting that the February 4 meeting would be the final meeting to prepare for the Work-Study Session with the City Council.

Chairman Sadvary indicated a desire to have a facilitator at the next meeting to help guide Task Force discussion. Ed Gawf recommended splitting the Task Force members into separate sub-groups at the next meeting. Rob Millar noted that doing so would require separate agendas and minutes as each sub-group would be subject to the Arizona Open Meeting Law. Mr. Millar also suggested holding public open houses on or around January 18, 2009, where the Task Force could present their recommendations to the public and allow for feedback. The Task Force agreed that this would be a good idea.

7. Public Comment (A.R.S. 38-431.02(K))

Nancy Cantor commented that neighborhood revitalization is critical. She asked the Task Force members to work with City staff and to listen to the residents. Additionally, she expressed concern with the Discovery Triangle in that that group would attempt to influence policy decisions for Scottsdale.

Norwood Sisson inquired as to how much money has been repaid to the City from SkySong and what the timeline is. He expressed concern over current infrastructure capabilities if density is increased in the area. Additionally, he expressed concern of stormwater drainage for the area.

Sandra Kline asked if the term "housing improvement" meant gentrification, expressing concern that narrowing diversity in the neighborhood would shortchange the community. She also suggested having an ongoing display of taskforce materials at the Design Studio in order to provide a forum for the public to provide input beyond the planned public open houses.

Approved

8. Identification of Future Agenda Items

The Task Force agreed that Barry Broome of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council could supply written materials to the group in lieu of a presentation.

Rob Millar asked the Task Force members if they would like the plan for the January meetings to be scheduled for a full two hours; it was agreed to do so.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.

Approved